

Panfil looks for work's reward

Senior defensive end eager to end Purdue career right

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Evan Panfil's Boilermaker roots trace back long before he was born.

The fourth member of his family to play football for Purdue University, Panfil is hopeful to leave his own legacy in West Lafayette, joining grandfather Ken, uncle Vince and cousin Jeff, who all wore gold and black.

The 6-foot-5, 270-pound defensive end enters his senior season more confident than ever after becoming a full-time starter a year ago.

"Last year was big for me being in a starting role. I was able to accumulate a lot of experience and just get into my groove a little bit," Panfil said. "It was a great spring with (defensive line) coach (Randy) Melvin, just learning more and practicing under him."

Statistically, 2015 was a strong year for the New Lenox, Illinois, native, with 30 tackles, four sacks and 6 1/2 tackles for loss. But victories say otherwise. In Panfil's time, the Boilermakers have won six combined games.

"We had some decent success last year and we also had our failures," Panfil said. "We've just got to go out and play the scheme and do what we know how to do."

Panfil's progress should help a Boilermaker defense that gave up more than 200 rushing yards and 36.5 points per game last season.

"He is a very willing learner and studies the game," Melvin said. "Now you do something where you've been put in (as a starter) and there's not as much that is shocking to you."

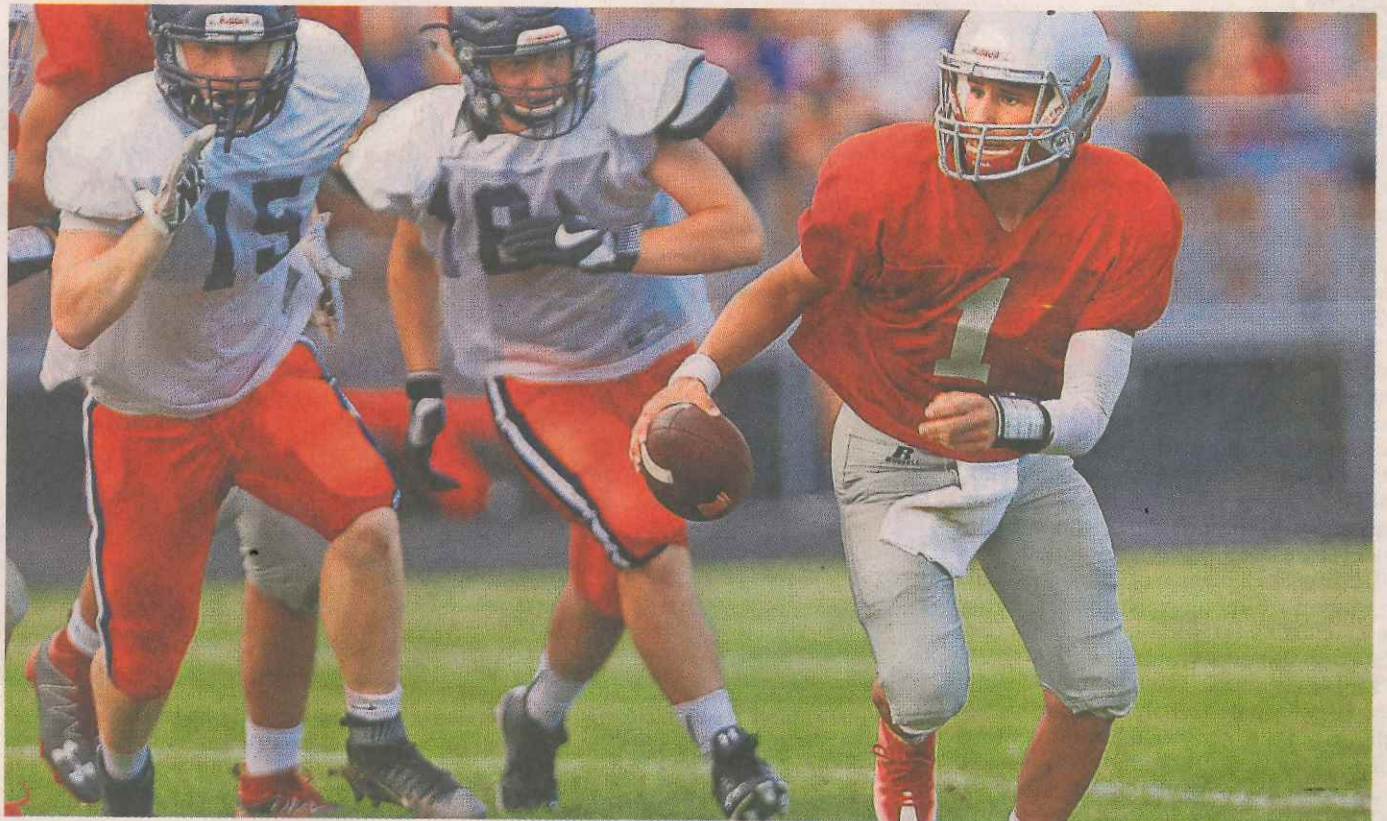
Panfil's improvement has not been a solo act.

"For me individually, he's pushed me because he's one of the hardest workers on the team," senior Jake Rople said. "He gets better every day and that is the main thing. You can see it on film from freshman year all the way to what he's doing in camp right now."

Rather than be discouraged by last season's 2-10 record or the 450-plus yards per game the defense allowed, he's focused on how the 2016 team.

"You can't dwell on the past," he said. "We know what we have to do to correct our mistakes. There's a lot of confidence built up going into this season."

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JOHN TERHUNE/JOURNAL & COURIER

West Lafayette quarterback Mikey Kidwell looks for an open receiver during Friday's scrimmage with Harrison. After losing the state championship game last year, he says, the team is highly motivated and ready to do 'one more' in memory of Christian Burns.

WEST LAFAYETTE OUT FOR 'ONE MORE'

Challenge from father of fallen classmate resonates with squad

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One more.

It's become more than a catchy phrase for the West Lafayette Red Devils.

On the day of Christian Burns' death, his father Eric spoke from the Straley Athletic Complex track near the 50-yard line, just off the home team sideline and told the many who came to honor a fallen classmate, "If you do one more for Christian, you'll be doing it for yourselves and all of us."

Nothing else had to be said.

"Every time during the summer, we've been motivated to get one more rep, get one more sprint, get one more pass or one more catch," senior receiver Matt Marley said. "This year, that is the mentality. One more game, then one more and one more until we are champions."

Last season, West Side fell one win short of a title.

This year, they'll have a constant reminder of what they're playing for.

"We've got a lot of motivation," record-breaking Red Devil quarterback Mikey Kidwell said. "We're coming back from last year and losing state. With Christian, we are going to come out and do it for him and work our way towards trying to win a state championship."

Key pieces to last year's run to the state championship game have graduated, but many also return.

And as always, new pieces have filled in, including 6-foot-5 sophomore defensive end George Karlaftis, who already owns a scholarship offer from Indiana.

With its makeup, West Lafayette fully expects to

be primed for another deep postseason run.

Easier said than done, coach Shane Fry said.

"When you do something like that, it is a tough balance," Fry said. "They come in here this year and think we're going back. It's hard. A lot of things have to bounce your way."

Last year, they almost always did.

Save a late-season injury to a two-way starter, the Red Devils benefited from a lot of bounces and breaks on their way to a Class 3A runner-up finish.

Along the way, there were a lot of extra practices and big games in front of larger crowds, beginning with a Week 9 matchup where West Lafayette played at Central Catholic with both teams ranked No. 1 in their respective class. They lost to the eventual undefeated Class A champion, the only setback until falling to Chatard in the title game.

The offseason brought frustration over the state title loss, then heartbreak with Burns' death.

The football field may be the perfect place to channel the whirlwind of emotions.

"Football is normal to these guys, so I think when they are playing football, that's good," Fry said. "I know whenever the going gets tough for us, we are going to think what would Christian do. And I can tell you the first thing he would do is kick everyone right in the rear end and say let's get after it. The guys know that."

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Edwards leads Purdue to easy win in Spain

Third quarter cracks open close game in Barcelona

Purdue and staff reports

BARCELONA, Spain - Purdue men's basketball dominated the second half to run its Spanish trip record to 3-0 with a 96-72 win over the Barcelona All Stars on Sunday night.

Purdue outscored BAS 31-8 in the third quarter to break open a close game and cruise to its third victory in as many games.

Freshman guard Carsen Edwards was



Isaac Haas

played well. It's the first game he's put two good halves together. He's been good in every first half so far. Today he put a full game together."

Sophomore forward Caleb Swanigan recorded his second double-double of the trip with 20 points, 11 rebounds and four assists even though he sat out the fourth quarter.

Junior center Isaac Haas collected 19 points on 9 of 13 shooting to go along with six rebounds.

"Swanigan and Haas were too much for them down low," Painter said. "Both



Caleb Swanigan

shooting and aggressive defense. The Boilermakers held a 15-14 lead late in the first quarter before closing the quarter on a 7-0 run to take a 22-14 advantage after 10 minutes.

Purdue would still lead 38-31 late in the first half

before the All Stars eventually tied the game at 42 on a 3-pointer by Argues. Carsen Edwards would give the Boilermakers the halftime lead at 44-42 with a late tip-in.

"I thought we got out to an OK lead and then they really made a run at the end of



Carsen Edwards

The third quarter belonged to the Boilermakers, who took a 75-50 lead into the final quarter. The Purdue defense left the All Stars nothing to work with as the Boilermakers pulled away.

"We were able to score in transition, off offensive rebounds and some hustle plays," Painter said. "In the half court our guys kept moving the basketball and getting open looks."

Purdue shot 33 of 66 (.500) from the field, 8 of 22 (.364) from 3-point range and 22 of 26 (.846) from the free throw line in